



Frequently Asked Questions

The Street Maintenance Sales Tax Program

What is a street maintenance sales tax?

State legislation allows municipalities to collect a quarter-cent sales and use tax exclusively for the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing public streets and alleys. The legislation requires voter approval every four years.

What is the purpose of the street maintenance sales tax?

To provide timely and cost effective rehabilitation and preventive maintenance of existing public streets within the city limits of Arlington. The goal is to improve mobility and maintain roadways to prevent deterioration and costly rebuilds.

How long has Arlington been collecting a sales tax for street maintenance?

Arlington voters went to the polls in Sept. 2002 and approved a sales and use tax for street maintenance as a new funding source for ongoing street repair and maintenance. Voters reauthorized a sales tax in 2006. Prior to these elections, a fee for street maintenance was collected on the water utility bill.

How much has been collected so far?

To date, approximately \$86 million has been collected since voters authorized the sales and use tax for street maintenance. Every year, the City collects approximately \$11 - \$12 million.

How many public streets does Arlington have?

Arlington has approximately 3,000 lane miles of streets and roadways.

How many streets have been maintained or repaired since voters authorized the sales and use tax in 2002?

Since the City of Arlington began collecting the street maintenance sales tax, the Public Works and Transportation Department has resurfaced 750 lane miles of roadway.



How has the money been spent?

Seventy-five percent of every dollar collected is spent on materials and contracts. Microseal programs have been completed on streets to seal the surface and prevent moisture infiltration and deterioration. Asphalt milling and reclamation treatments have been done to build new road bases and street surfaces in several areas of the city. The City of Arlington has also purchased a pavement management system and has implemented an inventory and pavement rating program.

How does the City of Arlington determine what streets will be maintained or repaired first?

The Public Works and Transportation Department uses a pavement management system to help assess pavement condition and determine maintenance needs. Once streets are identified for maintenance, coordination occurs with Arlington Water Utilities to ensure water or sewer line work beneath the roadway is completed prior to street maintenance.

The information in this document was compiled by the City of Arlington to factually describe the purposes of the measure to be placed before the voters at an election to be held within the City of Arlington on May 8, 2010 and does not advocate passage or defeat of the measure.

FAQs

2010

Q and A, continued from front

Are other cities collecting a sales tax for street maintenance?

According to the State Comptroller's Office, the North Texas cities of Grand Prairie, Haltom City, Lake Worth, Pantego and Samson Park currently have sales tax programs for street maintenance.

How do I find out if my street is on the schedule for preventive maintenance or repair?

The FY 2009-2010 maintenance schedule is posted at www.arlingtontx.gov. From the home page, click on Public Works and Transportation Department. The City of Arlington mails letters to affected neighborhoods within two to three weeks before work is to begin. As a reminder, usually within a week before work is to actually start, the City will post door hangers.

Why is the sales tax program on the election ballot this Spring?

The sales and use tax expires every four years. State legislation requires voters to reauthorize the local tax every four years.

How much will the fee cost me?

For every one dollar spent in Arlington, 25 percent of one penny goes to street maintenance.

What is the City's current sales tax rate?

The current sales tax rate is 8 percent. Reauthorizing the street sales tax will not increase the tax rate.

If approved by voters, when will the sales and use tax expire?

If approved by voters this Spring, the renewal will begin on Jan. 1, 2011. The tax will expire on Dec. 31, 2015.

Before You Go ... Voting Times, Dates and Locations

Early Voting Dates and Times:

- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, April 26-30
- 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, May 1
- 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 2
- 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, May 3-4

Early Voting Locations:

- Bob Duncan Center
2800 S. Center Street – 76014
- Tarrant County Sub Courthouse
700 E. Abram St. – 76010
- Elzie Odom Recreation Center
1601 NE Green Oaks Blvd. – 76006
- Water South Service Center
1100 SW Green Oaks Blvd. – 76017
- Fire Training Center
5501 Ron McAndrew Drive – 76013

Voting Early is Convenient!

Voters can cast ballots at any Early Voting location in Tarrant County, including Fort Worth, Kennedale and Mansfield.

Election Day is Saturday, May 8

The polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. on Election Day.

For a complete listing of
Election Day polling locations:

www.arlingtontx.gov/citysecretary/polling.html

www.arlingtontx.gov

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For more information about the Street Maintenance Sales Tax, call 817-459-6350
www.arlingtontx.gov/streets

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Also available in Spanish and Vietnamese.

